

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT
Prusi Press Release

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**PRUSI RESOLUTION PASSES
AG, FORESTRY, AND TOURISM COMMITTEE**

RESOLUTION CALLS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

LANSING – Senate Resolution 216, sponsored by State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming), was recently given unanimous approval by the Michigan Senate’s Ag, Forestry, and Tourism Committee. SR 216 urges the United States Forest Service to review its forest management plan to revise timber practices and address declining timber yields in the country’s national forests. The action taken by the committee clears the way for approval by the full Senate.

“I am pleased that my colleagues in the Senate realize how the important the sustainability of our national forest lands are to local economies in Michigan,” Prusi said. “I hope that the U.S. Forest Service takes swift action to ensure the sustainability of Michigan’s forest lands.”

Calling the current management strategies inadequate, Senator Prusi’s Resolution brings attention to the historically low timber yields produced in Michigan’s National Forest. In Fiscal Year 2003, a mere 26.7 million board feet (MMBF) of an allowable 70 million board feet (MMBF) were harvested from Hiawatha National Forest; Huron Manistee National Forest produced 36.7 MMBF of a target of 82.2 MMBF; and 55.9 MMBF of a sustainable 78 MMBF was harvested from Ottawa National Forest. Michigan counties receive federal payment in lieu of taxes on these lands that amount to 25 percent of stumpage receipts. Prusi believes that expanded sustainable harvesting would help to alleviate revenue sharing cuts at the local level and could provide additional job opportunities for U.P. families.

“Logging is an important part of our way of life; U.P. communities rely heavily on its economic benefits,” Prusi said. “For the long-term viability of our forest and local economies, we can not continue our current forestry strategies.”

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Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.